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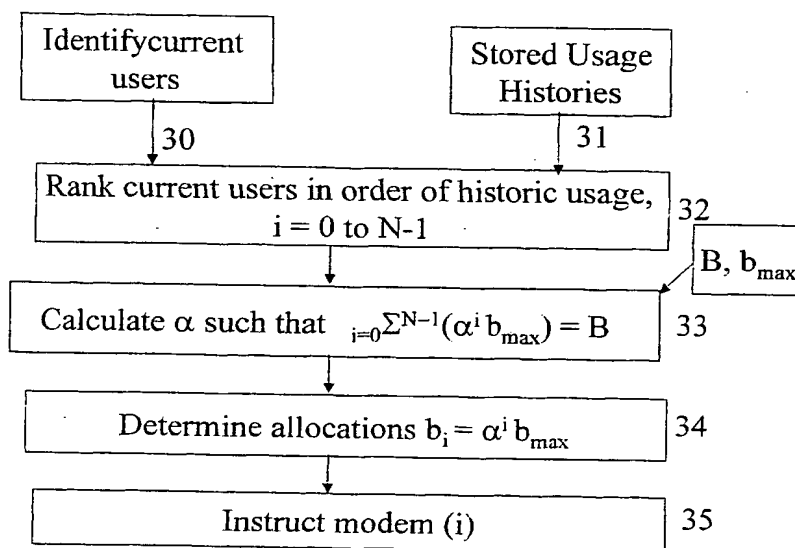
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(54) Title: **BANDWIDTH ALLOCATION**



(57) Abstract: Access to a communications resource is controlled by limiting the maximum capacity made available to each of a plurality of users, by ranking the users according to their usage of the resource over a previous period, and restricting the availability of resource to each user by a restriction factor allocated to each user according to that user's ranking such that the greatest availability is allocated to the historically lightest users, thereby discouraging continuous heavy use of the resource whilst having little effect on the moderate user. The maximum capacity made available to each user bears an inverse relationship to the usage of the resource made by that user over a previous period, relative to the usage made by the other users.

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